

2020 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE HOLYOKE/CHICOPEE

Funded Partners: Chicopee Boys & Girls Club, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, Holyoke Boys & Girls Club, Holyoke Community College, Holyoke High School, Holyoke Police Department, MassHire Holyoke

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation*

Total Funding: \$475,234

Strategies	Outcomes	Funding Allocation
Education & Employment	<u>1,405</u> Participated in Education Programs <u>22</u> Participated in Employment Programs <u>62</u> Pursued College or Post-Secondary Training <u>22</u> Completed a Job Training Program	\$156,907
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>730</u> Participated in Youth Development Programs <u>475</u> Developed Communication Skills <u>93</u> Developed Leadership Skills <u>63</u> Engaged in Volunteer Work or Community Service	\$201,487
Suppression	<u>26</u> Hot Spot Patrols Completed <u>32</u> Law Enforcement Supported Home Visits	\$116,840

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon CSI programs may have adjusted programming options (e.g., reduced numbers served to meet restrictions, remote programming) and/or shifted funding allocations.

Youth Risk Assessments

26% LOW-RISK*	Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
60% MODERATE-RISK*	Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
14% HIGH-RISK*	Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

* % of youth assessed for risk; responses in risk assessment may have been impacted by changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Success Highlight

"Because of this program and the students' hard work we have had students enroll in college, gain employment, and find better-paying jobs. One of our previous students, after receiving her HiSet diploma, enrolled in a training program at a community college and received her CNA certification. This allowed her to gain employment that ultimately helped her get an apartment for her and her daughter. Prior to Covid 19 she started taking classes towards her LPN license."

~ Holyoke Community College

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Thomas A. Turco III, Secretary
To learn more visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/shannon-community-safety-initiative-csi>

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Holyoke

Chicopee

Total Population (2019 Estimate)	6,892,503	40,117	55,126
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	29.7%	15.3%
Unemployment Rate	8.0%	12.6%	10.7%
Total School Population (2019-20)	983,058	5,576	7,990
Economically Disadvantaged	36.6%	81.4%	58.9%
High School Dropout Rate	1.8%	3.6%	2.6%

Sources: www.census.gov/quickfacts; profiles.doe.mass.edu/; www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/

Gang Activity in Holyoke/Chicopee

11

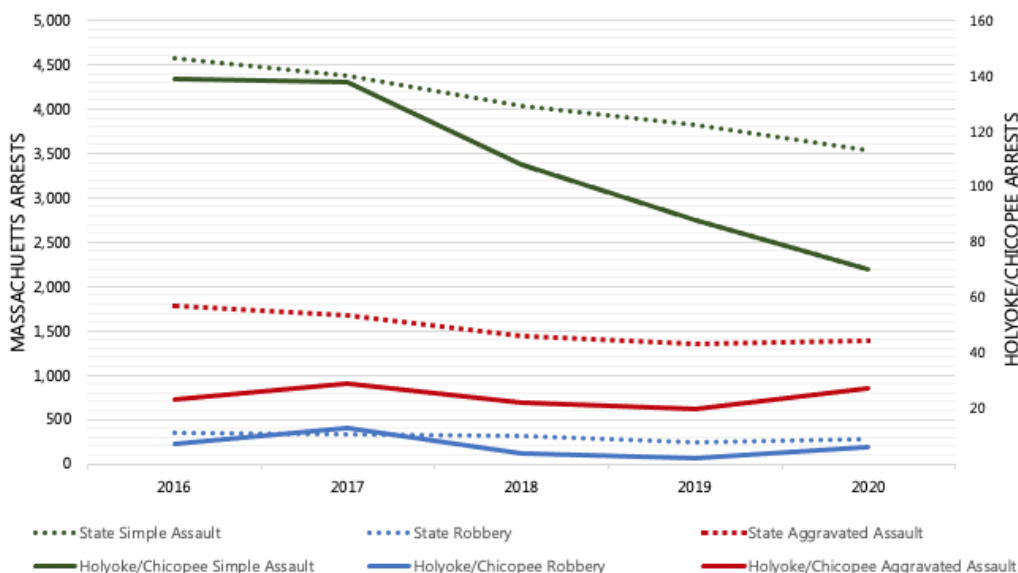
Street Gangs

300

Gang Members

In 2020, the Holyoke/ Chicopee Shannon CSI identified eleven formal named gangs comprising more than 300 members. Gangs include the Appleton Posse, Bloods, Crips, Dirty South, Flatbush, La Familia, Latin Kings, NETAS, NHB (NeighborHood Bloods) Rollin 20s, O3, R2D (Ready to Die) as well as other unnamed gangs. The gangs occupy substantial turf in central Holyoke, with substantial street dealing of opiates including heroin and heroin with fentanyl in Holyoke and Chicopee. Recruitment of youth into gangs occurred in schools, through peer relationships, and via social media.

5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020



Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020

Simple assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 23%
- Holyoke/Chicopee decreased 50%

Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 24%
- Holyoke/Chicopee decreased 14%

Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 22%
- Holyoke/Chicopee increased 17%

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, reports supplied by the site, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Office of Grants and Research / Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, the Center on Crime and Community Resilience at Northeastern University, for preparing this brief.